

Braintree & Bocking
URBAN DISTRICT

REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
C. R. C. RAINSFORD
M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M.
FOR THE YEAR
1955

TOGETHER WITH THE
REPORT
OF THE
Chief Sanitary Inspector

W. H. Root, Printer, Halstead

BRAINTREE and BOCKING URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Health Committee

J. ARNOLD, Esq., Chairman.
C. A. WALKER, Esq., Vice-Chairman
R. L. GOODWIN, Esq.
H. P. HUGHES, Esq.
C. C. HYMAS, Esq.
R. W. LIVERMORE, Esq.
A. M. PORTER, Esq.
G. A. WARNE, Esq.
G. P. KING, Esq., J.P., ex-officio
F. MARTIN, Esq., ex-officio

Public Health Officers

Medical Officer of Health

C. R. C. RAINSFORD, M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M.

Chief Sanitary Inspector

S. F. BAYLEY, F.S.I.A., M.R.S.H.

Additional Sanitary Inspector

J. F. LEAH, M.S.I.A. (Until May, 1955)
W. G. THURSTON, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.H. (Commenced October, 1955)

Clerk

H. W. CHILDS

Junior Clerk

N. D. GAYLER (Commenced March, 1955)

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Town Hall, Braintree.

July, 1956.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report on the health, vital statistics and sanitary circumstances of the district for 1955. The report of your Chief Sanitary Inspector is included. You will find also a record of the work done at the Child Welfare and Maternity Clinics, which, as you know, are administered by the Essex County Council. I am indebted to the Area Medical Officer for providing the figures.

1955 was a healthy year and the incidence of infectious diseases was very low. Although the incidence of poliomyelitis throughout the Country as a whole was relatively high, no cases occurred in Braintree.

The quality of the Braintree water is of a high standard and all samples analysed proved satisfactory. Further comment on the water supply will be found later in this report and you will note that the pumps are working to near full capacity to maintain an adequate supply. In view of possible increases in the town's population this must be borne in mind and may, perhaps, add a note of urgency to the Council's proposals for a new supply.

A survey of unfit houses undertaken during the year showed that rather more than 250 houses were unfit for human habitation by modern standards. In addition there were approximately 500 applicants on the Council's Housing list. It is hoped that a start will be made in clearing the slum property in 1956.

The importance of pure water and clean food is generally accepted, but the nation is only beginning to realise that a great deal of preventable disease may be due to impure air. The problem is a national one, but local authorities can play their part. It is gratifying that your Council has agreed in principle, to set up recording apparatus to estimate the degree of air pollution. This is part of the County Council scheme to measure the extent of the London smoke or smog drift. A great deal of information is required before effective preventive measures can be taken.

During the year it was not necessary to take any action under the National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47.

As a newcomer to Braintree it is my pleasure to record my appreciation of the help I have had from the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee, and from other officers of the Council. My special thanks go out to your Chief Sanitary Inspector, whose detailed knowledge of the problems of the district I have found so valuable. The latter part of this report was mainly compiled by him.

I am,

Yours obediently,

C. R. C. RAINSFORD.

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES,

Town Hall, Braintree.

July, 1956.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BRAINTREE AND BOCKING
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting, in conjunction with the report of the Medical Officer of Health, my report on the sanitary inspection of the Urban District for the year 1955.

The total number of visits carried out during the year showed an increase over those of 1954, due mainly to a fifty per cent. increase in the number of animals slaughtered and requiring inspection. Owing to staff difficulties certain other matters had to be somewhat neglected in order to maintain a complete meat inspection service. This also led to some delay in the completion of the Housing Survey required under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. The actual survey was completed during the year but was not ready for presentation before February, 1956.

I wish to thank members of my staff for their hard work during the year and the inspectors of neighbouring authorities, who gave their help so willingly when necessary. I would also like to record my appreciation of the work of Mr. Leah who left the district after nine years' valuable service as additional sanitary inspector.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S. F. BAYLEY.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	6,811
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	18,020
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books	...	...	...	...	...	5,997
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	£114,728
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£445

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS:

		Total	M	F	
Legitimate	...	286	142	144	
Illegitimate	...	21	11	10	
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	...	...	17.03
Birth Rate corrected by comparability figure of 1.01	...	...	...	...	17.2
Birth Rate for England & Wales per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	15.0

STILL BIRTHS:

		Total	M	F	
Legitimate	...	8	3	5	
Illegitimate	...	1	0	1	
Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	...	...	28.47
Rate per 1,000 total births England & Wales	...	...	...	...	23.1

MATERNAL MORTALITY:

Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	...	...	...	Nil
------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----

INFANTILE MORTALITY:

Deaths of infants under 1 year:

		Total	M	F	
Legitimate	...	4	3	1	
Mortality rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	13.9
Total infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	13.02
Infantile mortality for England & Wales per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	24.9

DEATHS:

	Total	M	F	
	219	124	95	
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	...	12.15
Death rate corrected by comparability figure of 0.85	...	...	...	10.32
Death rate per 1,000 population England & Wales	...	...	...	11.7

All the above rates are calculated on the estimated population given by the Registrar General.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES, 1955

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General and the classification is given under the thirty-six headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Disease, Injuries and Causes of Death.

			Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	... ..	2	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	... ..	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	... ..	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	... ..	—	—
5.	Whooping cough	... ..	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	... ..	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	... ..	—	—
8.	Measles	... ..	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	... ..	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	... ..	5	3
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	... ..	4	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	... ..	—	5
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	... ..	—	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	... ..	12	6
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	... ..	—	—
16.	Diabetes	... ..	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	... ..	18	15
18.	Coronary disease, angina	... ..	21	17
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	... ..	3	1
20.	Other heart disease	... ..	16	17
21.	Other circulatory disease	... ..	—	2
22.	Influenza	... ..	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	... ..	7	4
24.	Bronchitis	... ..	9	4
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	... ..	1	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	... ..	1	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea	... ..	1	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	... ..	1	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	... ..	2	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	... ..	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	... ..	—	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	... ..	14	10
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	... ..	1	—
34.	All other accidents	... ..	2	4
35.	Suicide	... ..	3	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	... ..	—	—
All Causes			124	95

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS

The slow increase in the population continues and the Registrar General's estimated figure for 1955 is 18,020. It is interesting to recall that in 1938 it was 14,800.

Births

Total births numbered 301 which is 3 fewer than in 1954. The corrected birth rate per 1,000 estimated population was 17.2 which is higher than the figure for England and Wales (15).

Deaths

Only 4 infant deaths were recorded, which gives a low infantile mortality rate of 13.02 per 1,000 estimated live births. The comparable figure for England and Wales is 24.9. The deaths all occurred in the first week of life and were due to broncho pneumonia (2), atelectasis (1) and prematurity (1).

Total deaths numbered 219 compared with 184 in 1954, and the corrected death rate is 10.32 per 1,000 which is higher than last year (8.73), but lower than that for England and Wales as a whole (11.7).

Analysis of the classified causes of death shows that by far the biggest group was cardio vascular disease with 110 deaths followed by malignant disease with 37. There were 11 deaths from pneumonia and 2 from pulmonary tuberculosis, but none from influenza, whooping cough or measles.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

(a) Under the control of the Essex County Council:—

(i) Clinics were held at the following centres during the year:—

Braintree—Essex County Health Services Clinic, Coggeshall Road:—

			Attendances
Child Welfare	Every Tuesday	2 p.m.	2,126
Ante Natal	2nd & 4th Thursday	2 p.m. (By Appt.)	104
Women's Welfare	2nd and 4th Wednesday	10 a.m. (By Appt.)	289
Minor Ailments	Every Tuesday	10 a.m.	235
Dental	Mon., Wed., Fri. (all day)	10 a.m. (By Appt.)	2,596
Diphtheria Immunisation	1st Friday	2 p.m.	

Bocking—Village Hall.

Child Welfare	4th Thursday	2.15 p.m.	163
---------------	--------------	-----------	-----

(ii) Home Help Service:—

This useful service is administered from the Area Health Office, Springfield Road, Chelmsford.

(iii) Ambulance Service.

The Ambulance Station is situated in Cressing Road, Braintree. A full 24-hour cover is provided.

(iv) Laboratory Services.

The Essex County Council provide a laboratory service which includes the bacteriological and chemical analysis of water samples, the chemical analysis of sewage effluents and the bacteriological examination of ice cream, and the examination of other foods for pathogenic organisms. These examinations are carried out by the Counties Public Health Laboratories, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

Examination of milk samples from the district are also arranged by the Essex County Council and the service is provided by the Public Health Laboratories, Borough General Hospital, Ipswich.

Chemical examination of food stuffs are undertaken by the Public Analyst to the Essex County Council.

I am grateful to the Pathologist, Black Notley Hospital, for examining throat swabs and other specimens.

(b) Under the control of the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board:—

(i) Chest Clinics:—

These are held weekly at St. Michael's Hospital, Braintree.

(ii) Orthopaedic Clinics:—

These are held twice weekly at the Essex County Health Services Clinic, Coggeshall Road, Braintree, and an Orthopaedic Specialist from Black Notley Hospital attends the Clinic every three months.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The incidence of Infectious Diseases was low; measles with 46 cases topped the list. The prevalence of measles varies greatly from year to year, e.g., in 1951 there were 609 cases and in 1954 only 7.

Two cases of food poisoning were reported, a man and his wife. Investigations threw suspicion on a piece of ham from which was isolated the germs of *staphylococcus pyogenes*, a common cause of food poisoning.

One case of typhoid fever was notified, but the source of infection could not be traced.

Fifteen cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were reported, the lowest for some years.

It is gratifying to be able to report a nil return for poliomyelitis.

The following tables give further information with regard to the prevalence of Infectious Diseases during the year and for added interest I have given a comparative table for the years 1950 to 1956.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

TABLE A

Diseases	Total Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—
Encephalitis ...	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ...	1	1	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	2	—	—
Infective Hepatitis ...	2	—	—
Measles ...	46	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—
Paralytic Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	5	—	—
Tuberculosis, pulmonary	15	11	—
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	2	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	16	—	—
Totals ...	90	12	—

TABLE B

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	5	3	1	—	—
Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	1	—	3	—	1
Erysipelas	2	2	1	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	10	—	—	—	2
Infective Hepatitis	10	44	3	5	4	2
Measles	8	609	129	214	7	46
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pneumonia	2	3	—	1	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—
Paralytic Poliomyelitis ...	5	—	2	—	—	—
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	5	—	—	1	—	—
Scarlet Fever	17	3	10	5	4	5
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	28	25	24	17	21	15
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	3	2	2	1	—	2
Whooping Cough	8	104	1	54	32	16
Totals	89	808	175	302	70	90

TABLE C
INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE

Disease	At all Ages	under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and Over	Age Unknown
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Infective Hepatitis	2	—	—	—	—	—	25	4	—	—	—	—	—	1
Measles	46	—	2	5	3	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	5	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	5	1	7	—	—
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	15	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	16	1	3	1	1	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	90	1	5	8	4	19	25	5	1	5	2	13	1	1

TABLE D
INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED MONTH BY MONTH

Disease	Total Notified	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Hepatitis	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	46	2	3	5	5	8	14	7	2	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	5	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary ...	15	2	1	—	3	2	1	—	—	1	3	2	—
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	16	10	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	90	15	10	6	9	13	15	10	3	1	6	2	—

Tuberculosis

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 - 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2 - 3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 - 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 - 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 - 10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 - 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 - 20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 - 35	2	3	—	—	1	—	—	—
35 - 45	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
45 - 65	2	5	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	6	9	1	—	2	—	—	—

Of these cases 4 were cases re-notified on taking up residence in the area.

Diphtheria

We are becoming accustomed to reporting no cases of diphtheria, the last occurred in 1944, but we must remember that diphtheria is not a disease of the past; there were 169 cases in England and Wales in 1955. This is a mere fraction of the number of the old pre-immunisation days, e.g. 1938 — 64,955 cases with 2,861 deaths. There is a danger of this disease taking hold again if the immunisation state of the children is not kept up. I am not satisfied that the parents of Braintree are making full enough use of the facilities provided for immunisation by general practitioners and the Public Health Services.

The figures of the immunisation done are as follows:—

Immunisation against Diphtheria

Children who completed a full course of primary immunisation during the year		Children who were given a reinforcing injection during the year	
By General Practitioners	By County Staff	By General Practitioners	By County Staff
(a) 154	35	31	56
Total — 189		Total — 87	

Immunisation against Whooping Cough

Children who completed a full course of immunisation under the County Scheme		Records of combined diphtheria pertussis immunisation received
By General Practitioners	By County Staff	
10	28	(b) 141
Reinforcing injections		
—		3
		18

Figure (b) is included in (a)

Vaccination against Smallpox

Number vaccinated during the year — 130
 Number re-vaccinated „ „ „ 44

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER

The public supply was obtained from the Council's deep wells at the Notley Road Waterworks and the Bocking Waterworks and was chlorinated before passing into the service mains.

The number of samples submitted for bacteriological examination during the year was as follows:—

			Raw Water	Water in Supply	Total
Notley Road Waterworks	...	...	3	4	7
Bocking Waterworks	...	...	2	5	7

(These figures include one sample of raw water taken from each of the pumping stations by the Essex County Council).

All the above samples were satisfactory.

Very few complaints of odour and discolouration were received from consumers during the year.

Samples were also submitted for chemical analysis and the results of two samples are given as follows:—

Sample from Braintree Waterworks, 25.1.55

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals. The hardness of the water is very moderate; its somewhat high content of mineral and saline constituents is normal for this pumping station. The organic quality and bacterial purity of the water are of a high standard.

These results are indicative of a water which is wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes apart from the disadvantage of its known content of fluorine being higher than considered desirable.

Sample from Bocking Waterworks, 1.11.55

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a very minute trace of iron. The water is very hard in character, but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard.

These results are normal for this source, and are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

Water Consumption in the District

The Council's Surveyor and Water Engineer has kindly supplied the following information regarding the amount of water pumped during 1955:—

			Gallons
Notley Road Waterworks	...	...	185,499,000
Bocking Waterworks	...	...	71,856,000
Total			<u>257,355,000</u>

Based on a total population of 18,020 and allowing for 160 persons occupying 53 houses who do not obtain a supply from the public mains these figures represent an overall consumption of 39.48 gallons per head per day. The amount of water supplied through meters for trade and agricultural purposes was 61,349,652 gallons which is equivalent to 9.41 gallons per head per day, leaving a net consumption per head per day of 30.07 gallons for domestic purposes.

The overall consumption in 1951 was 32.97 gallons per head per day and the net consumption for domestic purposes 26.43 gallons per head per day.

The amount of water pumped has risen steadily during the past five years and in 1955, 27% more water was extracted than in 1951. The Water Engineer is having difficulty in maintaining an adequate supply at all times and the pumps are frequently in use for 24 hours a day.

At present it is estimated that 17,860 persons who occupy 5,944 houses are served by public mains.

Of these, approximately 100 houses with an estimated population of 300, are served by 49 standpipes, 43 of which are situated in the open. There are also a considerable number of houses served by the public mains, whose only supply is a tap situated in a washhouse entered from the yard.

There are 53 houses with private supplies, only 34 of these being piped inside.

Three samples of water from private wells were submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

There was no alteration in the position at either the Braintree or Bocking Sewage Works during 1955.

Reconstruction of the Braintree Works is scheduled to commence early in 1956.

New sewers were constructed on the Challis Lane Estate in preparation for new Council houses.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The collection of household refuse continued without serious interruption throughout the year in all parts of the District. This service is under the control of the Surveyor.

The tip at Rifle Hill was again used for the disposal of refuse.

Several complaints were made by residents of nearby houses concerning smoke nuisance arising from fires started on the tip by unauthorised persons. The Council have decided to fence the tip during the next financial year in order to prevent this kind of nuisance.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

(1) Number and Nature of Inspections

During the year 1955, the following inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspectors to the premises detailed:—

Nature of Inspections	Primary Inspections	Revisits	Total Visits
Housing—Housing Act	28	52	80
Housing—Public Health Act	73	235	308
Other Visits—Housing Act	280	63	343
Other Visits—Public Health Act	319	403	722
Notifiable Diseases	17	16	33
Water Supply and Sampling	42	8	50
Dairies and Milk Distributors	16	2	18
Milk Sampling	17	—	17
Food Preparing Premises including Bakehouses	98	47	145
Food Byelaws	12	—	12
Ice Cream Premises	9	3	12
Ice Cream Sampling	18	—	18
Meat and Food Inspection:—			
(a) Slaughterhouses	2419	63	2482
(b) Shops	73	2	75
(c) Markets	53	—	53
Factories Act (Power)	20	4	24
Factories Act (Non-Power)	5	—	5
Factories Act (Building Sites)	29	16	45
Shops Act	8	2	10
Drainage	110	175	285
Smoke Abatement	3	4	7
Overcrowding	2	—	2
Moveable and Temporary Dwellings	19	2	21
Vermin and Insect Pests	13	4	17
Rat Infestations	7	3	10
Interviews Owners/Builders, Etc.	70	—	70
Knackers Yard	18	6	24
Swimming Baths and Sampling	81	1	82
Miscellaneous	137	18	155
	<u>3996</u>	<u>1129</u>	<u>5125</u>

(2) NOTICES SERVED, ETC.

Number of Informal Notices served	185
Number of Informal Notices complied with	191
Number of Statutory Notices served	43
Number of Statutory Notices complied with	40

(3) Sanitary Defects and Nuisances

					Defects Etc., Found	Work Done or Abated
(a)	HOUSING					
	Defective roofs, rainwater pipes, etc.	...	...	...	47	50
	Other external defects	...	...	...	25	20
	Damp walls	...	...	...	3	5
	Internal defects	...	...	...	21	24
(b)	GENERAL					
	Defective W.C's and W.C. structures	...	...	...	29	22
	Houses with insufficient W.C. accommodation	...	...	...	1	—
	Houses with defective dustbins	...	...	...	98	97
	Offensive accumulations	...	...	...	1	1
	Vermin infested houses	...	...	...	2	2
	Contraventions of Factories Act	...	...	...	6	4
	Contraventions of Shops Act	...	...	...	2	1
	Defects etc., in food premises	...	...	...	11	5
	Other nuisances	...	...	...	3	—
	Disinfection of premises following infectious disease	...	...	...	—	1
(c)	DRAINAGE					
	Choked drains and W.C.'s	...	...	...	70	70
	Defective drains	...	...	...	15	15
	Defective soil pipes or vents	...	...	...	2	1
	New drains tested and passed	...	...	...	—	2
	Old drains tested	...	...	...	—	3

HOUSING

During the year 108 houses and 32 flats were completed of which 5 houses and 32 flats were built by or on behalf of the Council.

Clearance Areas

The Braintree (Chapel Hill) Clearance Orders comprising ten houses were confirmed by the Ministry during the year.

Individual Unfit Houses

Five houses were represented as unfit for habitation under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, and undertakings not to relet were accepted in respect of two of these. Demolition Orders were made on the other three houses. The Council agreed to rehouse the families from the four which were occupied.

One house was rendered fit and the undertaking given in 1954 was cancelled.

Two houses were demolished as a result of an Order made in 1954.

Repair of Houses

Fifty-six houses were rendered fit as a result of informal action and five houses after formal action, two under the Public Health Act, 1936, and three under the Housing Act, 1936.

The Council accepted tenders in December for the repair of two houses in default of the owner under the Housing Act, 1936. The work did not commence in the year under review.

Over two hundred and fifty inspections were made in order to complete the survey under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

Ten houses were inspected jointly with the Surveyor following applications for improvement grants under this Act. In four of these, schedules of necessary repair work were prepared and sent to the applicants.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

I. INSPECTION for purposes of provision as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	19	5	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	97	24	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	29	45	6	—
Total ...	145	74	6	—

II. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7.)					
(a) Insufficient ...	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	3	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	6	4	—	—	—

There are three Outworkers in the District, all engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

Atmospheric Pollution

Although atmospheric pollution is not a serious problem in Braintree it is important to keep a careful check on smoke emission.

Seven visits were made to local factories and other premises, and preliminary discussions took place regarding emission from a specialised plant with a view to improvement.

The Council agreed to participate in the County Council scheme for the measurement of atmospheric pollution in the County.

Shops Act. 1950

Ten visits were made under Section 38 of this Act.

Written warnings were sent in respect of two premises for failure to maintain a reasonable temperature.

Moveable Dwellings

Two licences to use land as sites for moveable dwellings were operative during the year.

Eight licences were granted in respect of individual caravans for specified periods.

Twenty-seven visits were made by your inspectors to all the sites concerned.

Swimming Baths

Two open-air swimming baths, one of which is owned and operated by the Council, were in use during the year.

A careful check was kept on these baths and in addition to the visits made for the purpose of taking samples of the water field tests for available chlorine were made at frequent intervals.

Eighteen samples for bacteriological examination were taken from the Council owned pool and the majority (17) were satisfactory. One proved unsatisfactory but was soon corrected by adjusting the chlorination plant. Of the seventeen satisfactory samples a few did not reach the highest standard. This was probably due to the exceptionally heavy load during the hot weather and the Council after considering the reports decided that certain improvements would be carried out to the filters before the 1956 season.

Six samples taken from the privately owned pool were satisfactory, although two did not reach the highest standard.

Insect Pests

One dwelling-house found to be lightly infested with bed bugs, was sprayed with D.D.T. solution and one house was similarly treated for fleas.

The occupiers of private slaughterhouses were advised and assisted regarding fly control and the premises kept under surveillance.

Advice and assistance was also given to householders regarding ants and other pests.

Steam Disinfector

The use of the steam disinfector at the former Isolation Hospital, Cressing Road, was continued during the year.

The plant was in operation for 7 charges, 1 for disinfection following infectious disease and 6 charges for the cleansing of bedding and clothing.

All this work was done for other local and public authorities.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Two licences to keep pet shops were renewed during the year 1955, and one new licence was granted.

Rodent Control

The services of a full time rodent operator were again shared with neighbouring authorities. The Council continued the scheme for the maintenance of rodent control whereby a grant of 50 per cent. of approved net expenditure was made by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The work done during the twelve months ending the 31st March, 1956, was as follows:—

Total number of inspections and re-inspections ... 979

Number of properties found to be infested and treated:—

Major	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Minor	...	...	...	...	...	...	138
Mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	...	...	...	...	...	...	8

Ten per cent. of the manholes of both Braintree and Bocking sewers were test baited with negative results.

At the request of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, one rick survey was carried out during threshing operations to ascertain the extent of infestation. No rats were present in the rick and less than fifty mice.

During the period covered by this report, your Council continued the free treatment of domestic premises and the treatment of business premises upon a rechargeable basis.

Legal Proceedings

There was no recourse to court action during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

The Council are responsible for the registration of milk distributors and dairies other than dairy farms and is the licensing authority in respect of dealers and supplementary licences for Pasteurised, Sterilised and Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Eight distributors and two dairies are registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

The following licences were issued under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949:—

Dealers Licence for Tuberculin Tested Milk ...	...	4
Supplementary Licence for Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	3
Dealers Licence for Pasteurised Milk ...	...	3
Supplementary Licence for Pasteurised Milk	...	3
Dealers Licence for Sterilised Milk ...	...	3

Bacteriological Examination of Milk

The following table shows the results of samples submitted for the statutory tests:—

Class of Milk	Number Sampled	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test		Turbidity Test	
		Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
Pasteurised T.T.	10	10	—	10	—	—	—
Pasteurised Tuberculin Tested	4	4	—	4	—	—	—
Sterilised	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
	2	—	—	—	—	2	—

Ice Cream

During the year two local manufacturers of ice cream and sixty-two vendors were retailing from shops in the Urban District. All were registered under Section 158 of the Essex County Council Act, 1933. In addition, vendors registered elsewhere in the County of Essex operated in the District.

Inspections of manufacturers' premises were made and periodic inspections of vendors' premises and vendors' vehicles were carried out.

Fifteen samples of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological examination with the following results:—

Manufactured in District	Manufactured outside District
Seven in Provisional Grade I.	Three in Provisional Grade I.
Three in Provisional Grade II.	Two in Provisional Grade II.
Nil in Provisional Grade III.	Nil in Provisional Grade III.
Nil in Provisional Grade IV.	Nil in Provisional Grade IV.

The two provisional grade II samples manufactured outside the district were considered unsatisfactory on account of the bacterial content. The authority in whose area these samples were manufactured was notified of these results. The manufacturer concerned has now ceased to retail in the Braintree area.

One of the provisional grade II samples manufactured locally was also considered unsatisfactory on account of the bacterial content. This sample was followed up and subsequent samples proved satisfactory.

In addition three samples of iced lollies were submitted for examination and all were reported as being satisfactory.

Meat

There are five slaughterhouses in use in the district one of which is also licensed and used for the slaughter of horses.

As anticipated, the first full year since the decontrol of slaughtering showed a further increase in the number of animals slaughtered. This increase coincided with a staff shortage, when for nearly five months of the year the staff consisted of one qualified inspector and one student clerk. However, with the latter acting as detention officer together with some help from the staff of the Essex County Council and occasional assistance from two neighbouring districts, a hundred per cent. inspection was maintained, except for horses.

The amount of overtime worked during the year was equivalent to fourteen weeks extra work.

The following sets out the particulars of animals slaughtered and of inspections and condemnations during the year:—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed	2470	422	772	5192	16444	437
Number Inspected	2470	422	772	5192	16444	374
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis:—						
Whole carcasses condemned	4	6	2	1	6	1
Weight in lbs. condemned	2030	3469	83	33	590	450
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	536	108	8	145	1849	29
Weight in lbs. condemned	5691	1714	17	322	4889	391
Percentage affected	21.86	27.01	1.29	2.81	11.28	8.02
Tuberculosis only:—						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	3	—	—	—	—
Weight in lbs. condemned	623	1976	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	157	42	—	—	786	—
Weight in lbs. condemned	4357	665	—	—	6496	—
Percentage affected	6.4	10.66	—	—	4.78	—
Cysticercosis:—						
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	14	—	—	—	—	—
Weight in lbs. condemned	353	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigera- tion	14	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage affected	.57	—	—	—	—	—

The carcasses and other offals of cattle found to be infected with localised cysticercus bovis were sent for refrigeration treatment in a neighbouring town. Fourteen beasts were found to be so affected and sent for refrigeration.

The arrangements made with the Council's approval in July, 1954, whereby all condemned meat and offals are collected by a private contractor for use after treatment for animal feeding continued satisfactorily throughout the year. This system provides adequate safeguards to public health.

Horseflesh

Your inspectors carried out the inspection of horseflesh slaughtered for sale for human consumption in the Urban District, all of which was sold outside the Council's area. Particulars are contained in the foregoing table.

Fifty-seven goats slaughtered for human consumption were also inspected.

Other Foods

As a result of inspections carried out at food shops and food preparing premises in the district, the following items were condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year:—

	lb.		lb.
Tinned Beans	... 13	Tinned Milk	... 34
Cheese	... 253	Tinned Peas	... 43
Corned Beef	... 34	Preserves	... 275
Tinned Fish	... 10	Sausages	... 36
Preserved Fruit	... 192	Tinned Soup	... 16
Grapes	... 400	Tinned Tomatoes	... 57
Tinned Ham	... 214	Tinned Vegetables	... 28
Tinned Meats	... 64		
TOTAL—1669 lbs.			

The food was disposed of either by burial at the Council tip or diverted where suitable to the Council pig food scheme.

Food Hygiene

The number of premises totalling 194 where food is prepared, stored or retailed is as follows:—

Hotels and Licensed Premises	... 42
Restaurants (including snack bars)	... 17
Works Canteens	... 8
School Canteens	... 9
Butchers	... 14
Food Manufacturing Premises	... 2
Wet and Dried Fish Shops	... 9
Bakehouses	... 12
Bread and Cake Confectioners	... 4
Greens	... 46
Greengrocers	... 12
Other Food Shops	... 19

Of these numbers, shops dealing with more than one of these items are classified once.

Details regarding milk and ice cream appear under separate headings.

One hundred and forty-five visits to food premises were made during the year. In addition twelve visits under food byclaws, seventy-five inspections of food in shops and fifty-three inspections of food in local markets were carried out.

In several cases it was found necessary to issue warnings concerning lack of cleanliness and other unsatisfactory conditions.

The following shows defects required to be remedied during the year:—

	Found	Remedied
Inadequate supply of hot water	1	1
Internal decoration requiring cleansing and redecoration	6	5
Eradication of insect pests	1	1
Defective sanitary accommodation	1	1
External defects	2	2
Internal defects	1	1

Four complaints were received concerning the fitness of articles of food and drink for human consumption. The complaints were in respect of a bottle of milk and a bottle of mineral water, both of which were prepared outside the Urban District, and a loaf of bread and some cooked pork prepared by local traders. The Council sent warning letters in each case.

Sampling of Food and Drugs

The provisions of the above Act, relating to the sampling of food and drugs are administered by the Weights and Measures Department of the Essex County Council. The Chief Inspector of that Department has kindly supplied the following details of the samples taken during the year:—

Jellied Veal	Genuine
Liver Sausage	"
Stoned Raisins	"
Butter	"
Luncheon Meat	"
Aniseed Lollies	"
Lemon Flavour Essence	"
French Nougat	"
Raisins	"
Cream of Tartar	"
Margarine (with 10% butter)	"
Bacon	"
Sultanas	"
Roll and Butter	Mixture of butter and margarine supplied. Notice of mixture printed on menu, but not seen at time of sale—cautioned.
Pork Sausage	Genuine.
Pastry containing nail	Sold to a resident by a local baker. Prosecution — absolute discharge, on payment of costs.
Unsweetened Evaporated Milk	Genuine. (Query as to labelling still pending).

48 samples of milk were taken of which five were low in fat content but proved genuine on "Appeal to Cow" samples.